

REMARKS

Claims 1-22, 49, and 50 are pending in this application. Claims 23-48 are canceled herein. Claims 49 and 50 are added herein. Claims 1, 14, 18 have been amended herein. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims.

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-14, and 16-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,538,292 to Chang, *et al.* However, the Chang, *et al.* reference teaches a doped polysilicon conductive layer separated into two portions 70 by an isolation region 87. The two portions 70 of the conductive layer function "as a charge trapping layer" (column 2, lines 40 and 41) to "hold electrons injected into the conductive region" (column 2, lines 40 and 41). More specifically, as stated at column 2, lines 42-46, the Chang, *et al.* reference teaches the use of "a conductive layer as a charge trapping layer and uses an oxidation region to separate the charge trapping layer into two isolated charge capture regions." The Chang, *et al.* reference also states this position at column 3, lines 65-67 and column 4, lines 23-26.

The present invention, on the other hand, collects and stores electrons in areas (42a and 42b) of the nitride layer adjacent or proximate the two end surfaces; not in the polysilicon floating gates 40a and 40b (see paragraphs 0023 and 0024 of the application) as taught by the Chang, *et al.* reference. The floating gates 40a and 40b precisely locate the pumped electrons, which improves reliability for the write/erase application (see last sentence in paragraph 0024 of the application).

Independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to include limitations that clearly define the difference of the Chang, *et al.* reference with respect to the present invention such that these

claims do now patentably define over all references of record. The remaining original claims 2-13 and 15-22 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 14 and are therefore also allowable not only for their own limitations but also for depending from claims deemed allowable.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issuance. If the Examiner should have any questions, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, should one be deemed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the appropriate fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

24 May 2005
Date

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